Nixon-psycho: Reston 9/7/73, "Good Theater, Bad Politics."

Restom still doesn t understand Nixon or the WG. He still thinks that Nixon wants a compromising Congress; to be loved and respected, to put in a popular program, all the things one would assume any President wants. He doesn't understandthat Nixon's only chance of survival is to provoke everyone into fighting him. He doesn't understand Nixon's objectives and not understauding them can't see that there can be no defeat because everything that discourages people and debases the political system makes authoritarianism more certain and helps establish it. If Nixon didn't manufacture enemies for himself and then didn't pick fights with his fabricated enemies he would have to face himself, which he can't do and the people would be thinking of the mess he made. Instead they are thinking of the fights he fights. Those he fights are busy fighting him on his chosen ground. which keeps them from fighting him in ways that could hurt or with programs he doesn't want.

It is like trying to reason with the irrational, or trying to persuade one in a deep emotional funk by means of logic. It doesn t work. When Reston as much as says Nixon is a psycho he addresses him in any way but as a psycho. HW 9/14/73